AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Contract for HBJ Pipeline**

778. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) who has been awarded the contract for the HBJ Pipeline and whether it was awarded to the lowest bidder;

(b) what are the names of the companies who bid and how much was the amount of the bid;

(c) what were the recommendations of the Gas Authority of India Limited and Engineers India Limited;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Petroleum Ministry had concurred with the recommendations of Gas Authority of India;

(e) what was the necessity to set up a committee headed by Shri B. K. Kaul at this stage;

(f) what are the recommendations of the Kaul Committee; and

(g) whether Government have received complaints from the Italian and Canadian Governments regarding the tendering procedure of the Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) The bids received in response to the Global tender floated by Gas Authority of India Limited for the construction of the HBJ gas pipeline are in the process of evaluation.

(b) to (f) Bids have been received from four consortia. The leaders of these consortia are SPIE CAPAG, CONDUX, SNAMPRAGETTI and NOVA CORP. It will not be in the public interest to disclose the details at this stage;

(g) Yes, Sir.

**Thermal Power Station at Umrer**

779. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:
SHRI S. W. DHABE:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received by Government for the establishment of a Thermal Power Station at Umrer Taluka District Nagpur, from Maharashtra State Electricity Board;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the requirements of Coal and its deposits in that area, for the Thermal Power Station and what will be its capacity?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c) A proposal for the establishment of a 2x200 MW Thermal Power Station at Umrer, as a pit-head station in Umrer Coalfields, was received from the Maharashtra State Electricity Board. The proposal involved diversion of Amb river for utilisation of the blocked coal below the river bed.

The total coal reserves in the Umrer region are estimated at about 87 million tonnes, of which about 46 million tonnes lie below the high flood zone of Amb river. The proposed station would require coal of the order of 1.2 million tonnes per year.

The proposal was examined but was not found technically feasible and economically viable.